

Lost Roses



Collection
+
Propagation
+
Distribution

= PRESERVATION

When we discuss collection, Propagation, and Distribution of plants — you could be talking of ANY sort of plants. (Check out an EXCELLENT book: [PASSALONG PLANTS](#) (Bender & Rushing). You'll love it!)



Above Left, see **Kalanchoe Carnea**

“Modoc” This plant of Indian origin was very popular in the 1890’s. It fell out of commerce, and was rediscovered in Santa Barbara Co. (It is thought that “Modoc” indicates that it was found near Modoc Rd.)

Hylocereus undatus “Pitaya Dragonfruit”



Hylocereus undatus (“Pitaya Dragonfruit”) is of arguable origin, but was grown in Ventura Co. in the late 1800’s by Theodosia Burr Shepherd (Shepherd’s Garden, Ventura-by-the-Sea). It can produce large, sweet red fruit.

We found both of these plants in untended land, on walks in our neighborhood. Both mother plants have disappeared, now, but neighbors have preserved them.

But let's talk about Roses!

It is widely assumed that old cemeteries are where you go, to look for Old Roses — but that's not necessarily the case.



FIND THEM IN CITIES AND SUBURBS!

In fact, many wonderful old roses have been found in old gardens.

Look for forgotten roses anywhere where people have kept gardens. Deserted gardens ... gardens where families have cherished plants from the past ... these continue to yield up treasure.

“De la Vina Mystery” (right) and **“Benny Lopez”** (below) were both found in Santa Barbara.

Hetty Shurtleff discovered **‘De la Vina Mystery’** growing up through and above an 8-ft.-tall Eugenia hedge.

“Benny Lopez” was found by Mr. Benny Lopez, in the yard of his newly-purchased 1950 tract home, which had been build on old orchard land.

It’s not surprising. I’ve seen **‘Catherine Mermet’** collected from an old Eugenia hedge, separating an apartment complex from a McDonalds!

Any older town may hide such treasure.

FUN FACT: Though difficult to find in the U.S., Both **“De la Vina Mystery”** and **“Benny Lopez”** are in commerce in The Netherlands, Germany, and Poland!



“De la Vina Mystery”



“Benny Lopez”





"Grandmother's Hat"



"Grandmother's Hat" ...

... was first found by Fred Boutin, then with the Huntington Botanical Gardens. That was in 1979, and he was certain it would quickly be identified.

Found years later in the East Bay area by Barbara Worl, it was study-named for the silk flowers on her grandmother's hats. It has been found in many areas there, but never identified.

Though this is one of the finest roses for Southern California gardens, this rose may now have only one U.S. source: Burlington Rose Nursery, Visalia, CA. (But it is in commerce in The Netherlands, Germany, and Poland!)



Rosa arkansana "Peppermint Candy"

R. arkansana, first described in 1861, is widely distributed in North America.

This joyously streaked, striped, stippled example was collected in an alkali dry lake bed in Utah by a lady named **Candy** Craig. It was given to hybridizer Kim Rupert, who has used it in breeding, and shared it with others.

"Crestline Mulberry," a Hybrid Perpetual, was found by hybridizer Kim Rupert, growing next to an antiques shop in Crestline California. The town dates back to the founding of the Seely Sawmill, in 1850, so the rose may have a long history there.

Though it remains unidentified, it seems to match a rose known in Northern California as the **"Portuguese Rose."**

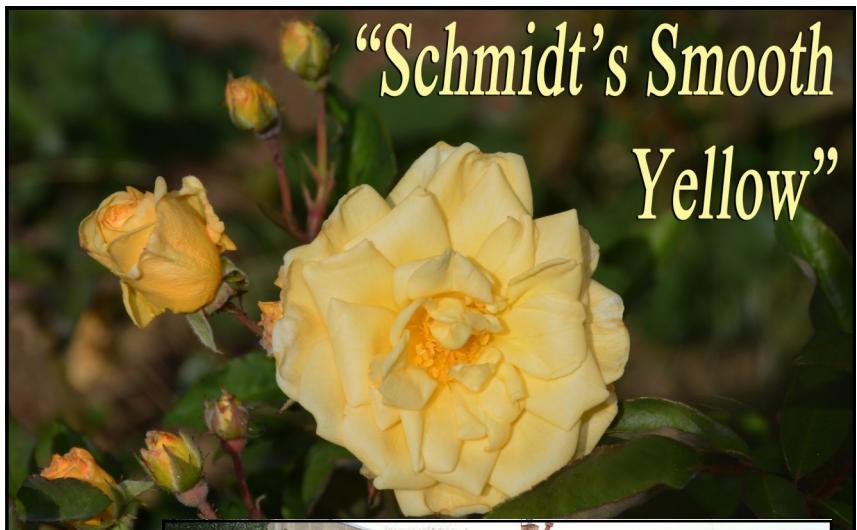


“Schmidt’s Smooth Yellow” demonstrates that a significant rose need not come from a significant or beautiful site.

Jackie Schmidt spotted this rose while walking in her San Francisco neighborhood. Growing and blooming well in the abandoned garden of a rather mundane empty home, it beckoned irresistibly.

This is clearly a Polyantha, and a fine one. Disease-free and a heavy bloomer, it will grow to 3 or 4 feet. A suggested identity, **‘Eugenie Lamesch’** (*Polyantha, Germany, Lambert, 1899, Aglaia x William Allen Richardson*) is hinted at by the foliage, and red tones on the

opening buds. But this cannot be confirmed as **‘Eugenie Lamesch’** has long been lost to commerce. **“Schmidt’s Smooth Yellow”** is in the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden and the Sacramento City Cemetery — but it is not in commerce. If you are fortunate enough to acquire this Passalong Plant, you will have a treasure.



“Louise Ave. White Hybrid Tea”



This beautiful white rose was collected in the wreck of the garden of a San Fernando



Valley home. The house, built in 1920, was the center of one of the Valley’s first walnut orchards. The homeowner’s widow

lived there into the late 1990’s, so perhaps the roses were tended in her lifetime . . . But after that, they received no water or care. Yet, they remained alive as late as early 2015, when the home was under renovation. (I suspect they are now gone.)

This is almost certainly **‘Snowbird.’** (*Hybrid Tea Rose, Robert M. Hatton; United States, 1936, Chastity x Louise Crette*) Disease-free, and a prolific bloomer, **‘Snowbird’** was THE favorite white exhibition Hybrid Tea Rose in Southern California. It’s still a great rose.

Though no longer in regular commerce, **‘Snowbird’** is available from Burlington Rose Nursery, in Visalia, CA.



*“Honeymoon Cottage
Hidden Garden Purple”*



“Honeymoon Cottage Hidden Garden Purple”

“Honeymoon Cottage Hidden Garden Purple”

This beautiful rose — Probably a Hybrid China — has long grown untended near the curb on a vacant lot in San Juan Bautista. This was the site of a small house, probably much like the historic *“Honeymoon Cottage”* on the adjacent lot. It burned to the ground in the 1960’s, and the lot remains empty.

This is a spring-blooming rose. It was probably part of an extensive garden which included two unique very double *“Ragged Robins,”* a species fuchsia, a probable *‘La Marne,’* some Buckeyes, and a scattering of lilies.



*“Old
Town
Novato”*

“Old Town Novato”

This beautiful Hybrid Perpetual Rose was discovered by Cassandra Bernstein in an older area of Novato, CA. It appears to be identical to another Foundling — *“Jay’s Hudson Crimson”* — discovered in Berkeley by Jay Williams.

So — This rose, probably, was in commerce. But since *“Jay’s Hudson Crimson”* cannot be identified, that doesn’t get us much forrader. :-)

This is a bush of moderate size, perhaps to 4 ft. It will grow better and bloom more profusely with more water. We grow it as a “dooryard” rose, so it gets ample dish-rinse water, and likes that. It’s one of the better Hybrid Perpetuals for our area.

I love the elaborate sepals which are quite common.



“Old Town Novato”



“Florence Bower’s Pink Tea”



“Florence Bowers Pink Tea” is a fiercely-vigorous Climbing rose, blooming early and often, in profusion.

This is the sort of rose you want, to cover an arbor at a focal center in your garden. It should be far better-known than it is.

Mrs. Florence Bowers, a long-time South Carolina rosarian, was given this rose many years ago by an older lady. It’s a genuine “*Passalong*” plant — said to have been collected at some point from a historic stage stop in that area.

Mrs. Bowers gave her rose to Ruth Knopf, who shared it with Gregg Lowery — but, sadly, it is now not in commerce. (Though it certainly **SHOULD** be!)

“Tamalpais Homestead Tea”
is another wonderful foundling
saved for us by Cassandra Bernstein.

Of the discovery site, Cass wrote:

“Two very old roses reside on the fenceline of an abandoned house in Mill Valley, California. Most homes on the street date from the 1930’s, but this wood frame house was built in 1906. The high school across the street was built in 1908. ‘Lady Hilingdon’ is on the property as well as a Manetti, ‘Perle d’Or,’ ‘Duchesse de Brabant,’ and possibly ‘Russelliana.’ The roses are about 7 feet tall and



consist of a single, very thick, barky basal, although one of the two plants is 10 to 12 feet wide and was grown on a support”.

Holly Hagy’s plant of **“Tamalpais Homestead Tea”** is 8-ft. wide and still growing. The foliage is dependably immaculate, bloom is generous, and repeat is rapid.

Oh — If you care, Cass now believes this rose is not a Tea Rose.

It is an exquisite puzzle.



In 1841 at the age of 22, John Bidwell became one of the first pioneers to cross the Sierra Nevada to California. Bidwell became deeply involved in the development of his adopted



John Bidwell

state, its agriculture and what is now the city of Chico. By the 1850s, Bidwell had purchased more than 30,000 acres. He then built a General Store, a Hotel, a Post Office, and a Flour Mill. In 1860, Bidwell helped lay out the town of Chico, which he named. Three years later, Governor Leland Stanford made him a Brigadier General in the California State Militia.

Among his other accomplishments, John Bidwell was probably California's first nurseryman



“Forest Ranch Pom-Pom”

Sherri Berglund found **“Forest Ranch Pom-Pom”** at a deserted homesite near Chico, California. This was land which had been associated with John Bidwell, and it seemed probable that this was a rose once sold by Bidwell's Chico nursery. That became even more likely when the same rose was found again at the site of a dairy farm Bidwell had owned.

So — This was probably a “named rose” — one in commerce in the 19th-Century. But WHAT named rose? That question remains unanswered.

“Forest Ranch Pom-Pom” is a soft, rich, blue-lavender in cool weather, though it may shift to pink in very hot weather.

This is a big, arching plant, which will bloom heavily in the spring, rest through summer's heat, and bloom again in the Fall. It possesses a very valuable virtue: This is one of the few “purple” roses that is not troubled by chlorosis in alkaline conditions.

Its only flaw for Southern California gardens: It appears to require at least some winter chill in order to bloom well.

“Moser House Pink Stripe”



This lovely Tea Rose,
“Moser House Pink Stripe”
was found at the same 1870 home
as “Moser Shed Rose” (See:

[http://
www.heritagerosefoundation.org/#!article---moser-house-shed-rose/c1dk6](http://www.heritagerosefoundation.org/#!article---moser-house-shed-rose/c1dk6))

and several other great roses.
Clay Jennings made friends with

“Secret Garden Musk Climber”



the “*Moser House Dog*” while we explored this magnificent collection of roses.

Seeing the similarity between “Secret Garden Musk Climber” (L) — a rose we know well — and “Moser House Musk” (L & R, Below) we couldn’t help but wonder if this might be the mysterious “*Secret Garden*” which was the origin of “**SGMC**.”



(Above, L & R) “Moser House Musk”

So Forgotten Gardens Are The Source Of Many Found Roses . . .



“Rustler’s Gold”

Was originally collected by Alice Flores from the Myers Plot in the Placerville Union Cemetery. It's a good thing she did, because, like many old old plants, this one is gone.



It is thought that this beautiful Pernetiana/Hybrid Tea Rose may be ‘Julien Potin’ z (Bred by Joseph Pernet-Ducher in France, in 1927 from Souvenir de Claudio Pernet × an un-named Seedling.)

It's difficult to be sure, because though ‘Julien Potin’ was introduced in the U.S., there are now no U.S. sources.

It is a surpassingly lovely rose, and a good bloomer.

Hybrid Tea Roses From Cemeteries . . .



“Cordtz Plot”

Was found on the graves of Lauritz and Louise Cordtz, born in Austria, in the 1870's, buried in a Gold Rush Country cemetery.

Loritz died in 1917, and Louise in 1939.

Their lovely dark red Hybrid Tea Rose is vigorous, fragrant, and graced with lovely blue-green foliage.



“Durst Plot”

The Dursts are prominent Yolo County farmers. The tree that dominates their family plot is the most spectacular 'Sutter's Gold' imaginable, and going by dates, it was probably planted shortly after the rose's 1950 release. This is a breathtaking sight, in full bloom. Unlike many, this clone of 'Sutter's Gold' will grow well on its own roots!



But Hybrid Teas Are A Small Minority Among Cemetery Roses . . .



**There are CHINA ROSES Like
“Elisabeth’s China”**

Elisabeth Stober, born in Germany, departed this life in Sacramento, CA, on June 16, 1881. She was 87 years of age. The scope of her life-experiences is overwhelming (as is true of so many immigrants to California).

Her son predeceased her, and is buried next to her. Elisabeth’s rose is one of many “Legacy” plants in the historic Sacramento City Cemetery — roses which survived decades of neglect.

The rose shows distinct signs of having been cut to the ground at least 3 times — but despite vandalism and drought, this tough old rose blooms on.



age 84.

Smith served the Civil War in the 16th Illinois Infantry. His wife, Rachel, died in 1907; their son, George, in 1923. Their peaceful plot is still guarded by this lovely rose.

The rose that is Study-Named
“Orange Smith” is NOT orange.
Why, then, is it named **“Orange Smith”??**

Simple. This China Rose was collected from the grave of Orange Philo Smith, b. July 9, 1826 in Ohio; d. June 20, 1911,



“Orange Smith” (the rose) is very likely a sport of **‘Archduke Charles,’** with fewer petals, of greater substance. It does the same remarkably lovely color change as blooms open and age.



“George Washington Richardson”

(or, “*Legacy Of The Richardson Family*,”
or, “*Richardson*”)

This disease-resistant beauty blooms in a warm white, occasionally blushing pink in cool weather — and blooms in great profusion.

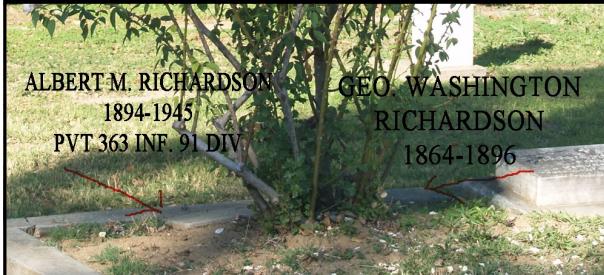
Observation of the [highly-endangered] mother plant as well as plants grown from cuttings leads us to believe that this is a rose of climbing habit.



“George Washington Richardson”



“*Legacy Of The Richardson Family*”



“George Washington Richardson” is a complete mystery.

Growing between the graves of a father (George Washington Richardson” 1864-1896) and a son (Albert M. Richardson, 1894-1945) the plant APPEARS to predate the son’s death, so could have been planted by George’s widow, at some time between the deaths.

This is not a family plot of richly-carved memorials (though there are many of those in this cemetery). The plot lies far back in the cemetery, and the markers are very simple cast-concrete. George Washington Richardson was a blacksmith, and only 32 years old at the time of his death.

This rose remains unidentified. The only hint is a strong resemblance to a now-extinct Nabonnand rose — **‘Fiametta Nabonnand’** — introduced in France, in 1894. But there is no record of that rose being in commerce in the U.S.

Malcolm Manners is now growing “George Washington Richardson” in Florida. DNA testing is pending, so we may learn something. (Or not!)





'Gloire Lyonnaise'

This Hybrid Perpetual Rose, introduced in France in 1885, was bred from a cross of '*Baroness Rothschild*' and the Tea Rose, '*Mme. Falcot*.' It is thus somewhat better-adapted to Southern California than many Hybrid Perpetuals.

In San Juan Bautista, CA, it grows on a modern gravesite. But Old Roses in San Juan Bautista have been shared and re-shared for decades. It is quite probable that this plant was grown from a cutting taken in a local garden.

It blooms generously, and provides a lovely welcome to this place.



We Don't Always Manage To Save Them . . .

This plant of
**'Felicite et
Perpetue'**
flourished for
many years not
far from the
**'Gloire Lyon-
nais'** discussed
previously.

Not long after it
was recorded and
photographed, it
was gone. Prob-
ably a victim
(along with the
pink rose near it)
of weed whackers
and Roundup.



But We're Getting Better At It!

The “Pulich Children” Rose



The “**Pulich Children**” rose was found by Jill Perry, Liz Hall, and Kathryn McKenzie, in the old cemetery in Plymouth, California. See: “*How A Rose Found Its Family*”

[http://
www.goldcoastrose.org/
articles/how-a-rose-found
-its-family.pdf](http://www.goldcoastrose.org/articles/how-a-rose-found-its-family.pdf)

“... the “**Pulich Children**” rose, . . . was named after the only headstone in the large plot. The double headstone contains two names side by side, Michell Pulich, who died at age 4 months in 1883, and Jon-

nie Pulich, who died 1 ½ years of age in 1888. No other Pulich headstones were nearby, and the census records of the time do not include these babies or give any indication of who their parents were.”

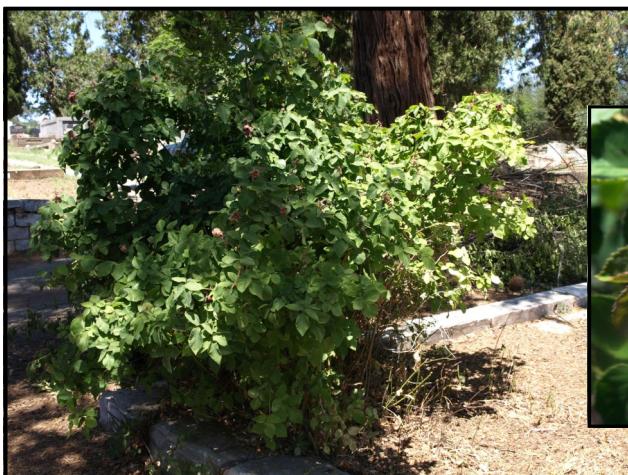
Pulich Family descendant Robin Pulich visits the Plymouth Cemetery annually. In early 2015, she contacted us to alert us that disaster had struck the old roses there.

This was the result of a misguided attempt at “cleanup. Weed-whackers and Roundup had destroyed some plants completely. Others, including the “**Pulich Children**” rose survived, but had clearly been hit by Roundup, and was wounded. A magnificent ‘*Cl. La France*’ was on life-support.

Rescue for the roses of the historic Plymouth Cemetery arrived in the form of Rosarian Beverly Rose Hopper, who took on the preservation of this living history, with a vengeance.

Follow (and “Like”) the progress of Beverly’s work at the Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Plymouth-Pioneer-Cemetery-Heritage-Roses-857970777621871/?fref=ts>



... And Then, Seaking of Preservation, Distribution, and Preservation . . .

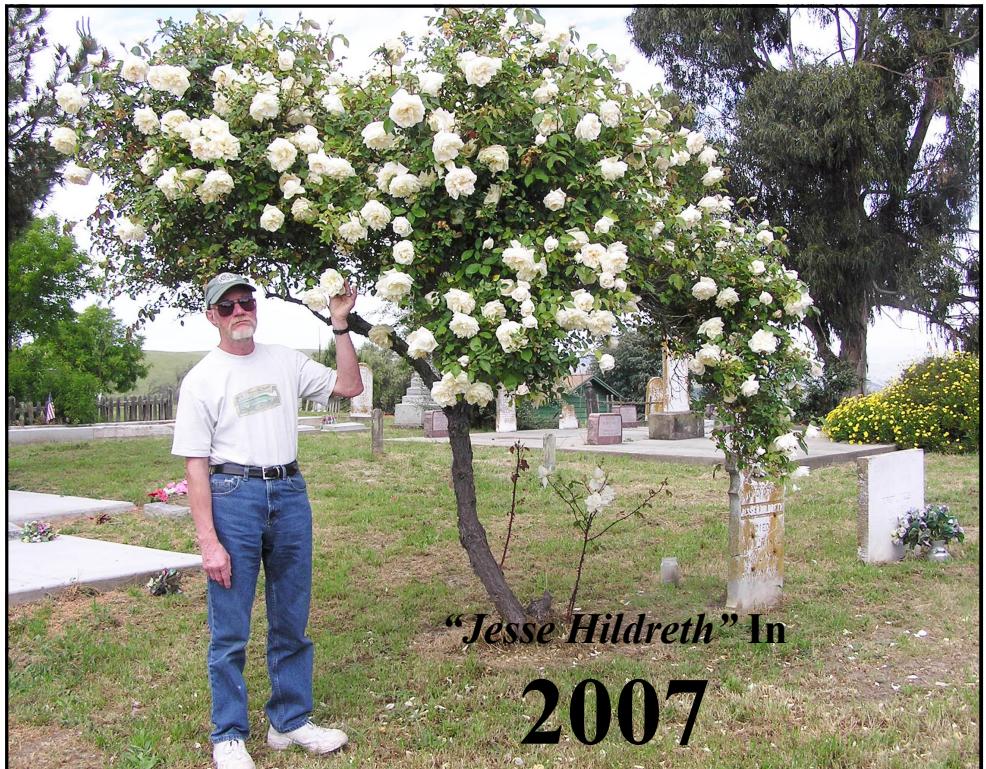
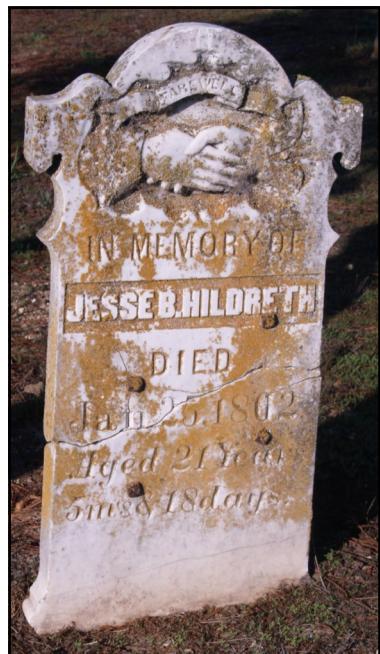
There's . . .

“Jesse Hildreth”



The magnificent Tea Rose, **“Jesse Hildreth”**, takes its study name from the nearest grave of its probable period — that of Jesse Hildreth, son of a local cattle rancher, dead in 1862 at age 21.

When we first saw this rose, it had two “trunks.” The wood was perilously old, and one trunk was lost in the winter of 2005.

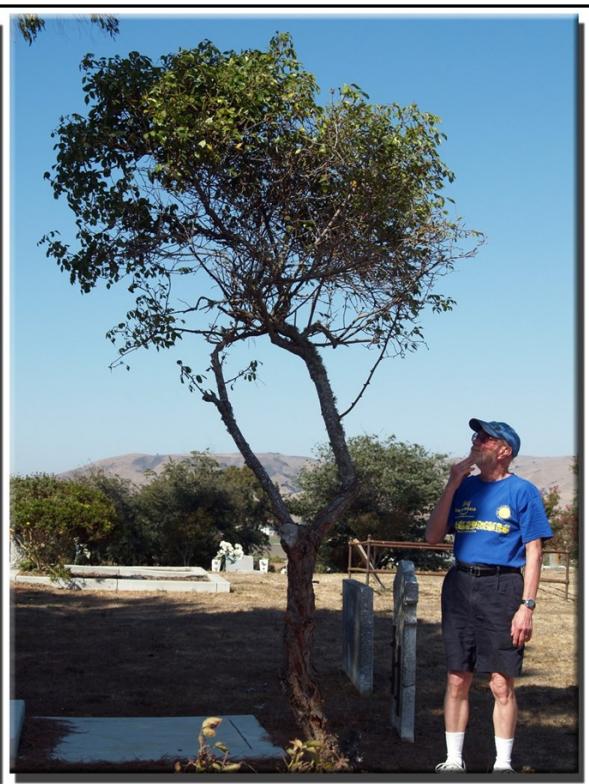


We first thought that it was **‘Devoniensis’** (*Tea, Foster, 1838*). That identification proved incorrect, but we believe that **“Jesse Hildreth”** is probably related to **‘Devoniensis,’ ‘Le Pactole,’** (*Tea, Miellez, before 1837*) and the Tea-Noisette, **‘Lamarque’** (*Noisette/Tea-Noisette, Maréchal, 1830*). There are similarities between **“Jesse Hildreth”** and another Found rose — **“Westside Road Cream Tea”** and they could be the same rose. But since we don’t know what THAT is . . .

In earlier years, there was a second “*trunk*”, the two forming a “*V*”. That was lost in the winter of 2005. The old wood was declining, seemingly termite-infested. Worse, “Mow & Blow” Gardeners repeatedly away all new basals. The old plant was was much-diminished by 2009.



May 2009



Sept. 2012

In 2012, drought began to have an effect.

Worse, the old rose lost half of its roots to a new burial (see upper right). By Fall, 2012, the situation was dire — and the Heritage Roses Group became involved.

We wrote letters. Letters to everyone who might matter. And the local Historic Society listened. They put pressure on the Mayor and the Cemetery Board. They formed a local Heritage Roses Group to protect the roses that were their heritage — in the Cemetery, and throughout the town.

The maintenance gardeners were instructed to leave the roses alone. When that happened, the tough old rose began to push new basal breaks.



2014 ...

The old crown is almost gone, but the roots are pushing new growth.

The local Heritage Roses Group is on the job!



The Three Essential Steps Toward Preservation

1. COLLECTION



A cane broken by the wind provides material for an ample number of cuttings — and an opportunity to demonstrate how to collect them.

2. PROPAGATION



Ending a tour of the Cemetery roses with a demonstration of propagation techniques and materials.

The local Heritage Group will be prepared to propagate and share the roses

3. DISTRIBUTION



Thanks to propagation, “**Jesse Hildreth**” now grows in the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden, the Historic Sacramento City Cemetery, and several private gardens.

Budwood was sent from the Cemetery to Dr. Malcolm Manners at Florida Southern College.

From Malcolm Manners, “**Jesse Hildreth**” went to Rose Petals Nursery in Archer, Florida

Rose Petals Nursery Now Offers “**Jesse Hildreth**”



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